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June 7, 1966

Dear Miss Belfrage,

That word "paranoid" is what has made this whole thing, and if, as I now hope, it does break wide open, it will be my exploitation of it that brought it to pass. I'll include a copy of the Washington Post story that started it all, a king-sized, wonderful double-cross that could not have served Eochian purposes any better had I invented it. Someday I'll tell you the whole story. Ten months of work are behind this single news break. The foundation is laid for much more, and more foundations are being dug, in between times, late at night, early in the morning - whenever possible. Time will tell.

The line "The book that couldn't be printed" is helping, not hurting, although that may change. Had you been at the ARA meeting with me, along with your wonderful friends, I think you'd realize this. I know I get through like a cook sometimes, but it wears off and the remnant is that people respect a man who is honest and does what he thinks is right. Two publishers who refused this book last summer came up to me today and told me they are proud of me. I am less than proud of them. Several have come up and bought the book from me. And I'm using that line, in the trade, with some effect on consciences. I've had a couple of them tell me so. Meanwhile, thanks in great measure to dear, kind, wonderful, imaginative, unselfish, brilliant, generous and such a sweet human Jerry, the book is now, I think, well launched. With the publicity to capitalize upon and his introductions to make it possible, several distributors have taken the book. In all there are now 2751 copies in commercial channels, beside the perhaps 50 we have had orders for and several hundred press copies, all without a cent in advertising, no press release, and I'm waiting to hear from another publisher who also distributes. I'll feel much better when a little cash starts rolling in and I can give it to the printer, to whom money is due day after tomorrow but from whom we haven't gotten a bill yet!

Someday, when I've got enough to pay the transportation, I've got to get on a yack program in New York, for the copies are in the hands of the distributors now. Here radio has been good. Had an hour Saturday night with a real bright guy who has the apparently well-earned reputation of being a terror. He was kind, and the show went well. Today the first of five three-minute interviews on newscasts on prime time on the local CBS station, spotted right after the net am news. This week, in the county where they live and in the largest weekly in the State (still a small paper) there is scheduled a large story on the autopsy doctors and their autopsy. They should be hearing from people. I have reason to expect more press attention in the immediate future. But to get back to the paranoias, I realized how incredible it was when it was happening and how it sounded, but there was little else I could do because of the kind of a nut I am and because I insisted on speed and had to explain it. Six or seven years from now you'll read the whole story in "Dick Daring in the Hallbox, or how I Got Rich in Six months."

Thank you for your kind words. They feel real good right now. I knew you were Mrs. Pomerance, but I didn't know which once, hence could not call you. They didn't know at NAL....I sent Aronson one of the first copies, with an unanswered letter. If I do not get to write your father tonight, I shall early in the a.m. and again thanks.

Sought both Lehmann-Haupt and Solotaroff today. Neither at ABA. Your letter took the now good time of four days for 250 miles, but my wife told me by phone when it arrived today. I'll do as you suggest. There are three review copies at the Times.

To go back to what I tell people about the history of the book: it's nothing unless they ask, for the book can speak for itself. You are right about how unbelievable it sounds....I have an agent in England, and I've checked up on shipping the books there. If a thousand pounds at a shot, the price is about 30 cents a book. Right now it doesn't like like anybody in England wants them or that I have them, and I certainly cannot reprint when I do not know what has been sold and haven't paid the first cent on this. But I tell you this for the future, in case things go well. This rate is a special one by air, from Washington....Barney Rosset will not touch the subject....I hardly know enough about the business to make intelligent decisions, but with this kind of a beginning, I'm thinking of concentrating on making this go in this form and waiting and hoping for paperback interest. Jerry introduced Knopf Burger today. We spent an hour. He seemed interested. Pocket and Bantam read long ago and liked, but Pocket had Calverley that did it in court and Bantam wanted an ice-breaker....I'm so tired I guess this sounds silly and I skip. I think that now there is nothing wrong with a joint review with Epstein. The books are entirely different and they compliment each other. His may well need mine for viability, but this may not be the case. I'm only on page 35. Or do I recall that wrong, that you want he would not. That's the kind of crummy deal I wonder if Viking worked on Newsweek. I launched their book and I've been advertising it on my radio time, etc., and Newsweek, like Book Week, had copies of it before Epstein's was available.

I sent copy to Village Voice three weeks or more ago.

Would be wonderful, and please, do, drive everybody crazy with talk of my book, and maybe I'll get the printer paid and maybe we'll do some good. Copies will go to you and friend tomorrow. And please, do, keep making suggestions.

Sincerely,